In 2012, there were 3.2 million farmers operating 2.1 million farms on 914.5 million acres of farmland across the U.S.

U.S. farms are 97 percent family farms. Farm and ranch families comprise just 2 percent of the U.S. population.

Today, each U.S. farmer produces enough food and fiber for 155 people, compared to 26 people in 1960.

More than 21 million American workers (15 percent of the total U.S. workforce) produce, process and sell the nation’s food and fiber.

Today’s farmers produce 262 percent more food with 2 percent fewer inputs (labor, seeds, feed, fertilizer, etc.), compared with 1950.

On average, farmers and ranchers receive only 16 cents out of every dollar spent on food. The rest goes for costs beyond the farm gate: wages and materials for production, processing, marketing, transportation and distribution.

In 2012, farms operated by women nearly tripled from 5 to 14 percent in the past 30 years.

Women in ag-related fields rose 21 percent in the past 10 years.

In 2012, women farmers in the U.S. totaled 970,000, with 288,000 working as principal operators.

Women principal operators sold $12.9 billion in agricultural products in 2012 and operated 62.7 million acres of farmland.

Women studying agriculture at land-grant universities outnumber men by more than 2,900 students.

In 2013, females comprised 55 percent of Auburn University College of Agriculture’s 1,300 students.

Conservation tillage, a way of farming that reduces erosion on cropland while using less energy, grew from 17 percent of acreage in 1982 to 63 percent today.

Total land used for crops declined by 15 percent (70 million acres) since 1982.

Careful stewardship by farmers spurred a nearly 50 percent decline in erosion of cropland by wind and water since 1982.
### Alabama Agriculture

- Two-thirds of Alabama, or 23 million acres, is covered in forestland.
- Alabama has the third most timber acreage in the 48 contiguous states, trailing only Georgia and Oregon.
- Eighty-five percent of timberland is owned by non-industrial private landowners.
- Forestry generates approximately $13 billion for Alabama annually.
- Alabama forests provide more than 122,000 jobs in timber production and processing.
- For every ton of timber harvested, 1.55 tons of new growth are added to Alabama’s forests.

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### ABCs of Alabama Agriculture

#### How We Stack Up

- Broilers – 2nd
- Catfish – 2nd
- Quail – 2nd
- Forestland – 3rd
- Peanuts – 3rd
- Sod – 3rd
- Pecans – 6th
- Chicken eggs – 10th
- Cotton – 10th
- Blueberries – 12th
- Peaches – 17th
- Cattle and Calves – 27th

#### Where does Alabama rank nationally?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broilers</td>
<td>2nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catfish</td>
<td>2nd</td>
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<td>27th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Alabama’s Top 5 Commodities:

- Poultry
- Cattle and Calves
- Greenhouse, Sod and Nursery
- Cotton
- Soybeans

#### Aquaculture

- The catfish industry’s annual economic impact is $158.2 million.
- Alabama farmers primarily raise catfish, but also farm tilapia, shrimp and crawfish.
- Alabama, Mississippi and Washington accounted for 40 percent of U.S. aquaculture sales in 2013.

#### Beef

- Alabama is home to 1.2 million head of cattle and calves.
- Cattle are a $2.5 billion industry in Alabama and are raised in all 67 counties.

#### Chickens

- Broilers – young chickens raised for meat – are Alabama’s top agricultural commodity.
- Cullman, DeKalb and Marshall counties are the largest poultry producers in Alabama.
- Alabama poultry production and processing generates more than $15 billion in annual economic impact and employs more than 86,000 workers on farms, processing plants and allied industries.